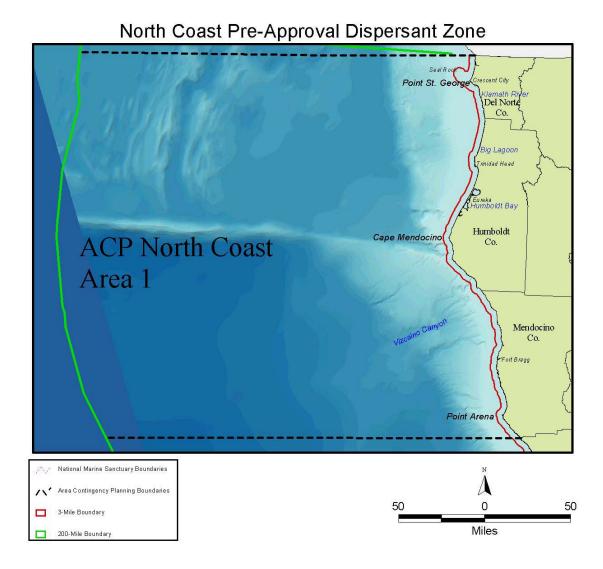
#### **APPENDIX B**

## DISPERSANT ZONE CHARTS AND REGIONAL WILDLIFE RESOURCE SUMMARIES

#### **B.1** North Coast



The North Coast dispersant use pre-approval area includes all waters seaward of the 3-mile state waters line (shown in red) and shoreward of the 200-mile line (shown in green). Areas inside state waters or within 3 miles of the California-Oregon border are "RRT Approval Required"; RRT approval will be case-specific.

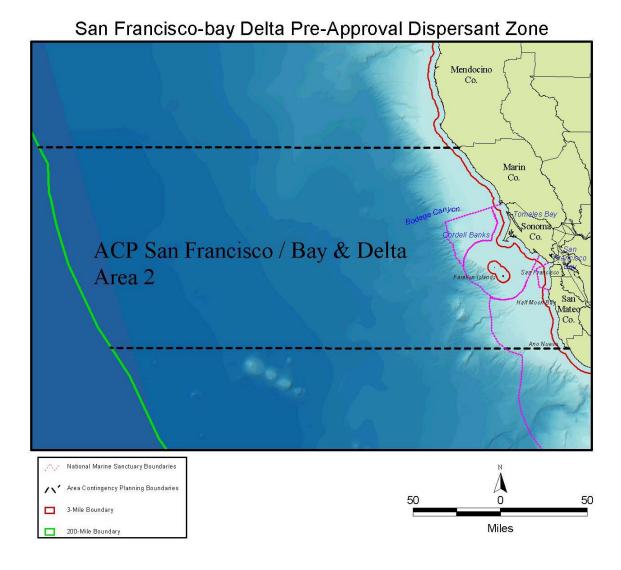
Offshore sea birds are seasonally concentrated in the areas off Point Arena, Cape Mendocino and Point St. George. These include phalaropes, auklets, petrels, shearwaters, fulmars, gulls and murres. Loons, grebes, endangered brown pelicans and marbled murrelets commonly occur inshore. Recent oil spills in the Humboldt Bay region have demonstrated that common murres and marbled murrelets are very susceptible to spilled oil. Shore birds, including the endangered western snowy plover, are also at risk should spilled oil reach the shore.

Many marine mammal species are potentially at risk, including several species of cetaceans (whales, dolphins, porpoises) and pinnipeds (seals and sea lions). Endangered cetaceans include blue, fin, humpback and sperm whales. Heavy oiling of the intertidal and upland areas of the coast can threaten harbor seal, Stellar sea lion and elephant seal pups.

Sensitive marine mammal areas include the slopes and offshore waters over Mendocino Ridge, the Vizcaino Canyon fan (used seasonally by northern fur seals), the Stellar sea lion rookeries at Cape Mendocino and Seal Rock, and the sea lion and harbor seal haul outs on St. George Reef and Trinidad Head. In addition, the waters near St. George Reef, the Klamath River mouth, and Big Lagoon near Trinidad Head support year-round populations of gray whales.

As oil comes ashore, the rocky intertidal habitat, as well as wetlands and mud flats adjacent to river mouths, are at significant risk both from the beached oil and from most of the cleanup procedures used to remove the oil. Of special concern in the marsh/wetland areas are the many species of resident or visiting birds, mammals, young-of-the-year endangered Coho salmon and steelhead trout.

## **B.2** San Francisco-Bay Delta



The San Francisco-Bay Delta dispersant use pre-approval area includes all waters seaward of the 3-mile state waters line (shown in red), shoreward of the 200-mile line (shown in green) and outside the Gulf of the Farallones, Cordell Banks, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries (shown in magenta). Areas inside state waters or a National Marine Sanctuary are "RRT Approval Required"; RRT approval will be case-specific.

The offshore regions of the area are some of the most productive along the entire west coast. At least 11 species of sea birds are known to breed in the area including common murres, two species of auklets, storm petrels, tufted puffins, pigeon guillemots, and two species of cormorants. In addition, an additional 35 species of sea birds are seasonal visitors to the region (USGS, 2000). Several species of birds occur inshore, including the endangered marbled murrelet.

Recent oil spills in the San Francisco region have demonstrated that both common murres and marbled murrelets are very susceptible to spilled oil. Shore birds, including the endangered western snowy plover, are also at risk should spilled oil reach the shore.

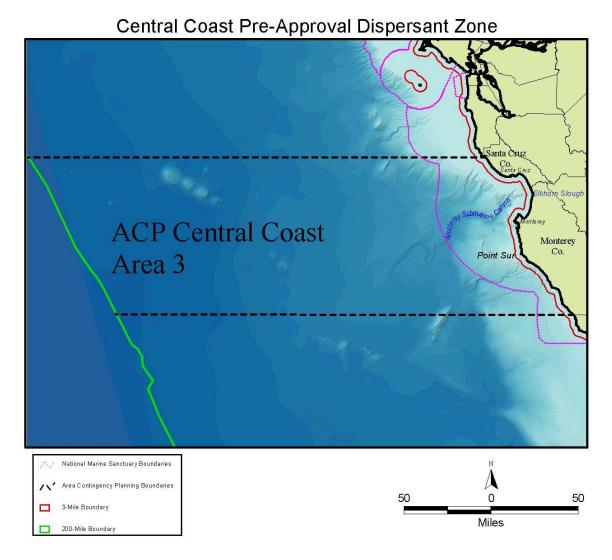
The offshore area is also a haven for marine mammals. At least 33 species of marine mammals have been reported for the region, many of which are federally listed as endangered or threatened. Endangered species include the blue, humpback, fin, sei, right and sperm whales; threatened species include the Stellar sea lion, Guadalupe fur seal and the California sea otter.

Most of the marine mammals are potentially at risk from spilled oil. In addition, heavy oiling of the intertidal and upland areas of the coast and Farallon Islands will threaten harbor seal, Stellar sea lion, northern elephant seal and northern fur seal pups.

The most sensitive regions of the waters off the San Francisco Area are the highly productive upwelling zones and shelf areas where both sea birds and marine mammals congregate in the spring and summer months to feed. These regions include Bodega Canyon, Cordell Banks, the region between Point Reyes and the Farallon Islands, and the shelf break off the most northern of the Farallon Islands.

As oil comes to shore, the rocky intertidal habitat, as well as wetlands and mud flats adjacent to river mouths, are at significant risk not only from the beached oil, but also from most of the cleanup procedures used to remove the oil. Of special concern in the marsh/wetland are many species of birds and mammals that inhabit these areas, as well as the potential for impacts to the young-of-the-year of the endangered Coho salmon and steelhead trout that may be residing in the area.

#### **B.3** Central Coast



The Central Coast dispersant use pre-approval area includes all waters seaward of the 3-mile state waters line (shown in red), shoreward of the 200-mile line (shown in green) and outside the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (shown in magenta). Areas inside state waters or National Marine Sanctuaries are "RRT Approval Required"; RRT approval will be case-specific.

Oil spills within the offshore region of the Central Coast initially threaten all sea birds and marine mammals that frequent the area. If the spilled oil is driven on shore by the sea conditions and prevailing winds, additional resources (*e.g.*, shore birds, intertidal organisms, seal and sea lion pups) are at risk for oiling.

Seabirds off California are generally most abundant in nearshore waters over the continental shelf; abundance drops off dramatically over the continental slope and deep offshore waters. High concentrations of seabirds occur in nearshore waters off Santa Cruz and Monterey counties, although seabird abundance drops south of Pt. Sur due to low water column productivity. Sea birds seasonally tend to concentrate near upwelling zones, in and "down stream" of offshore current jets associated with headlands, along

temperature and salinity gradients, and along the shelf break. Both seabirds and marine mammals concentrate in these regions due to the high abundance of food.

Sea bird densities are typically highest during the late summer through fall and winter periods (July through January) and lowest in April to June when birds are concentrated on their colonies. In general, sea bird densities decrease when moving from the inshore to the offshore environment, dropping off considerably seaward of the continental shelf break.

Over 100 species of sea birds have been reported from the region; about 70 of these species occur regularly. In the offshore (water depth > 200m) waters, common sea bird species occurring seasonally include sooty shearwaters, phalaropes, Leach's storm petrel, northern fulmars, black-legged kittiwake, herring, Bonaparte's, western and California gulls, Cassin's and rhinoceros auklets, and common murres. In Monterey Bay proper, a significant segment of the world's ashy storm-petrel population is present during the autumn. Near shore (water depth <200m), common species include sooty shearwaters, phalaropes, common murres, loons, western grebes, and western, California and Bonaparte's gulls. In addition, endangered species including brown pelicans, marbled murrelets (northern area of region), western snowy plovers, and least terns occur seasonally in the nearshore area and would be at risk from oil entering this area.

Of all the sea birds occurring in the region, the common murre appears to be one of the species most frequently involved in oil spills. Data collected by the Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response indicate that common murres are the most frequently oiled bird collected during recent central and northern California spill responses (Monterey Bay Mystery Oil Spill, 1997; Pt. Reyes tar ball incidents, 1997-98; T/V *Command* spill, 1999; San Mateo Mystery Spill (*Jacob Luckenbach*), 2001-03).

Shorebirds are another important component of the avifauna of the Central Coast area. More than 40 shorebird species have been recorded in central California; however, many of these are extremely rare, and only about 24 species occur regularly in the area. Although the majority of shorebirds occupy coastal wetlands, including estuaries, lagoons, and salt and freshwater marshes, they also occupy other coastal habitats, including sandy beaches and rocky shores. Common shorebird species in the area include black-bellied plover, willet, whimbrel, marbled godwit, black turnstone, sanderling, western sandpiper, least sandpiper, dunlin and dowitchers. Breeding shorebirds are limited to black oystercatcher, black-necked stilt, American avocet, killdeer, and the threatened western snowy plover, which nests and winters on sandy beaches.

Because of their migratory nature and the fact that few breed in the area, shorebirds are most abundant from fall through spring; comparatively few shorebirds remain during the summer months

A number of marine mammal species are potentially at risk from spilled oil in this region of the coast. At least 34 species of marine mammals inhabit or visit California waters. These include six species of pinnipeds (seals and sea lions), 27 species of cetaceans (whales, porpoises and dolphins) and the sea otter. Cetaceans, including a number of endangered species (blue, humpback, fin, sei, right and sperm whales), use area waters as year-round habitat and calving grounds, important seasonal foraging grounds or annual migration pathways. Neither of the two threatened or endangered pinniped species occasionally seen in the area (Guadalupe fur seal, Stellar sea lion) breed here, but a large breeding population of northern elephant seals occurs at Año Nuevo, directly to the north and adjacent to the Central Coast planning area. California sea lions, harbor seals and sea otters also occur here. Harbor seals breed on offshore rocks and isolated beaches of the central coast. Aside from the breeding locations (Año Nuevo, the central coast) thousands

of pinnipeds (elephant seals, California sea lions, harbor seals, Guadalupe fur seals, northern fur seals, Stellar sea lions) feed in and move through the area as either resident or migrating populations. The sea otter, a year-round resident of mainland central coast nearshore waters (generally within 6 miles of shore), is an endemic population of limited range and numbers currently experiencing population stress.

Marine mammals vary in their susceptibility to the effects of oiling. Since oil can destroy the insulating qualities of hair or fur, resulting in hypothermia, marine mammals that depend on hair or fur for insulation against the cold are among the most sensitive marine mammals to the effects of oil contamination. Most vulnerable to the direct effects of oiling among the pinnipeds are fur seals and newborn pups, which lack a thick insulating layer of fat. Cetaceans, which rely on layers of body fat and vascular control rather than pelage to retain body heat, are considered less vulnerable to the effects of oiling than pinnipeds.

Sea otters would be at high risk from an oil spill if oil were to reach nearshore waters of the region where most of the population is concentrated. Depending on the time of year, heavy oiling of intertidal and upland areas of the mainland coast could also threaten harbor seal and northern elephant seal pups.

At least 554 species of California marine fishes inhabit or visit California waters. The high species richness is probably due to the complex topography, convergence of several water masses and changeable environmental conditions. The Monterey Submarine Canyon is an extremely important topographical feature in the central coast region, to which the area's large faunal species diversity and density is attributed. The fish represent a mix of permanent residents and periodic visitors. The important fish species of central California include northern anchovy, albacore tuna, jack mackerel, Pacific mackerel, Pacific bonito, Pacific sardine, Pacific whiting, Pacific herring, salmon, steelhead trout and sharks. Most of these species are widely distributed in the area, and it is unlikely that an oil spill will harm enough individuals, their prey or habitat to significantly decrease these populations. However, northern anchovy are of concern since their restricted distributions during parts of their life cycle make them vulnerable to impacts from spilled oil. Another species that is abundant in the epipelagic zone and vulnerable to impacts is the market squid. Although squid are widely distributed offshore during most of their life cycle, they congregate inshore in very large numbers during spawning. Monterey Bay is one of the most important spawning areas in the state.

Both rocky and sandy shallow habitats are at risk from spilled oil when it comes ashore. Various species of abalone are, where they occur, especially at-risk members of the shallow rocky habitat. Currently, all major species of abalone in the central California area are severely depleted. Their depleted condition and life histories make abalone in shallow habitats especially vulnerable (at the population level) to impacts from spilled oil.

As oil comes on shore, the rocky intertidal habitat as well as coastal wetlands and mud flats adjacent to river mouths are at significant risk both from the beached oil and from most of the cleanup procedures used to remove the oil. Of special concern in the coastal marsh/wetland areas is the potential for oiling many species of resident or visiting birds, mammals, young-of-the-year endangered Coho salmon, and steelhead trout.

### **B.4** Los Angeles (north and south)

National Marine Sanctuary Boundaries

Area Contingency Planning Boundaries

3-Mile Boundary

San Luis Obisph
Co.

Morro Bal

ACP LA/LB Northern Sector
Area 4

Point Arguelld Santa Ynez River
Santa Barbara Channa Santa Clash River
Santa Barbara Santa Sa

# Los Angeles-North and Los Angeles-South Pre-Approval Dispersant Zone

The Los Angeles (north and south) dispersant use pre-approval area includes all waters seaward of the 3-mile state waters line (shown in red), shoreward of the 200-mile line (shown in green) and outside the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (shown in magenta). Areas inside state waters or National Marine Sanctuaries are "RRT Approval Required"; RRT approval will be case-specific.

Seabirds off California are generally most abundant in nearshore waters over the continental shelf; abundance drops off dramatically over the continental slope and deep offshore waters. High concentrations of seabirds occur in nearshore waters from Morro Bay to Point Arguello and the Santa Barbara Channel. Sea birds seasonally tend to concentrate near upwelling zones, in and "down stream" of offshore current jets associated with headlands, along temperature and salinity gradients, and along the shelf break. Both seabirds and marine mammals concentrate in these regions due to the high abundance of food.

Seabird densities are typically highest during the late summer through fall and winter periods (July through January) and lowest in April to June when birds are concentrated on their colonies. In general, seabird densities decrease when moving from the inshore to the offshore environment, dropping off considerably seaward of the continental shelf break.

Miles

Although over 100 species of seabirds have been reported from the region, the majority of individuals are composed of about 30 species. In the offshore waters (water depth > 200m), common seabird species occurring seasonally include sooty shearwaters, phalaropes, Leach's storm petrel, northern fulmar, blacklegged kittiwake, gulls (herring, Bonaparte's, western and California), auklets (Cassin's and rhinoceros) and common murres. Nearshore (water depth <200m), common species include sooty shearwaters, phalaropes, common murres, loons, western grebes and western, California and Bonaparte's gulls. In addition, endangered species including brown pelicans, marbled murrelets (northern area of region), western snowy plovers, and least terns occur seasonally in the nearshore area and would be at risk from oil entering this area.

Breeding seabirds are especially vulnerable to oil spills. Seabird colonies occur on the Channel Islands and along the mainland from Pt. Conception north; few, if any, seabirds nest on the mainland south of Pt. Conception. The most common breeding species in this area include storm petrels (Leach's, ashy, and black), California brown pelican, cormorants (Brandt's, double-crested, and pelagic), western gulls and alcids (pigeon guillemot, Cassin's auklet, rhinoceros auklet). Although breeding seasons also vary from species to species, one or more species is generally conducting some aspect of reproduction (nest building, egg laying, chick rearing, etc.) from April through August. In 1989-1991, the total breeding seabird population of the project area was estimated at over 100,000 birds, representing about 16 percent of the total California seabird population.

Shorebirds are another important component of the avifauna of the Los Angeles-Long Beach area. More than 40 shorebird species have been recorded in central and southern California; however, many of these are extremely rare, and only about 24 species occur regularly in the area. Almost all shorebirds migrate to the area from northern breeding sites; very few shorebirds breed in this area. Although the majority of shorebirds occupy coastal wetlands, including estuaries, lagoons, and salt and freshwater marshes, they also occupy other coastal habitats, including sandy beaches and rocky shores. Common shorebird species in the area include black-bellied plover, willet, whimbrel, marbled godwit, black turnstone, sanderling, western sandpiper, least sandpiper, dunlin, and dowitchers. Breeding shorebirds are limited to black oystercatcher, black-necked stilt, American avocet, killdeer, and the threatened western snowy plover, which nests and winters on sandy beaches.

Because of their migratory nature and the fact that few breed in the area, shorebirds are most abundant from fall through spring; comparatively few shorebirds remain during the summer months. Important shorebird use areas include Mugu Lagoon, Santa Clara River mouth, Carpinteria Marsh, Goleta Slough, the Santa Ynez River mouth, and the Santa Maria River mouth. Shorebird densities are not available for these areas, but they are generally considered to be lower than heavily used areas, such as the San Francisco Bay. Although densities are not available, shorebirds occupying sandy beaches in nearby Ventura County averaged about 44 birds per linear kilometer of beach.

A number of marine mammal species are potentially at risk from spilled oil in this region of the coast. At least 34 species of marine mammals inhabit or visit California waters. These include six species of pinnipeds (seals and sea lions), 27 species of cetaceans (whales, porpoises, and dolphins), and the sea otter. Pinnipeds breed on the Channel Islands and on offshore rocks and isolated beaches along the mainland coast; thousands also move through the area during their annual migrations. Cetaceans, including a number of endangered species, use area waters as year-round habitat and calving grounds, important seasonal foraging grounds, or annual migration pathways. The sea otter, a year-round resident of the mainland coast north of Point Conception, is appearing in increasing numbers in the western Santa Barbara Channel and around the northern Channel Islands.

The threatened or endangered marine mammal species found in southern California waters include six whales (blue, humpback, fin, sei, right, and sperm whales), two pinnipeds (Guadalupe fur seal and Steller sea lion), and the southern sea otter. The two threatened pinniped species do not breed in the area and presently are uncommon in southern California waters.

Marine mammals vary in their susceptibility to the effects of oiling. Since oil can destroy the insulating qualities of hair or fur, resulting in hypothermia, marine mammals that depend on hair or fur for insulation are most likely to suffer mortality from exposure. Sea otters, which rely almost entirely on maintaining a layer of warm, dry air in their dense underfur as insulation against the cold, are among the most sensitive marine mammals to the effects of oil contamination. Most vulnerable to the direct effects of oiling among the pinnipeds are fur seals and newborn pups, which lack a thick insulating layer of fat. Cetaceans, which rely on layers of body fat and vascular control rather than pelage to retain body heat, are considered less vulnerable to the effects of oiling than pinnipeds.

Sea otters would be at high risk from an oil spill if oil were to reach nearshore waters of the region. Depending on the time of year, heavy oiling of intertidal and upland areas of the mainland coast could also threaten harbor seal and northern elephant seal pups. Similar contact to the northern Channel Islands, particularly San Miguel Island, could have significant impacts on California sea lion, northern fur seal, northern elephant seal, and harbor seal pups, and possibly on adult fur seals as well.

At least 554 species of California marine fishes inhabit or visit California waters. The high species richness is probably due to the complex topography, convergence of several water masses, and changeable environmental conditions. Point Conception is widely recognized as a faunal boundary with mostly coldwater species found to the north and warm-water species found to the south, though extensive migrations do occur as a result of fluctuating environmental conditions. In fact, warm- and cool-water events in the Southern California Bight (SCB) affect fish recruitment and can alter the composition of some fish assemblages for years. The SCB is located in the transition area between Pacific subarctic, Pacific equatorial, and North Pacific central water masses, and the fish fauna contains representatives from each of these sources. Of the 554 species of California marine fishes, 481 species occur in the SCB.

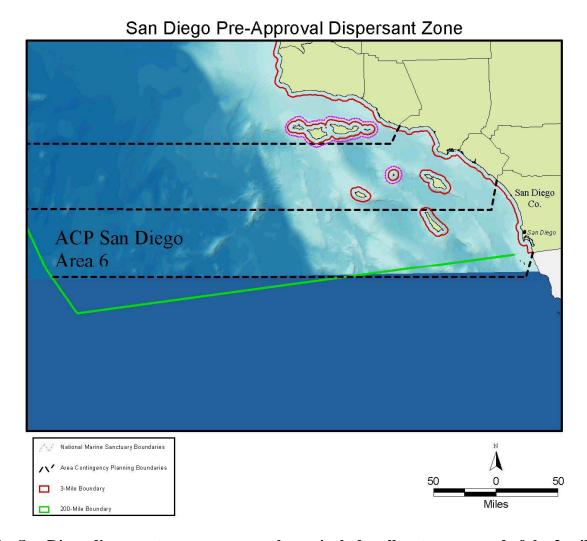
The pelagic realm is the largest habitat in the SCB and the home of 40 percent of the species and 50 percent of the families of fish. The pelagic zone includes the water column covering the shelf and the upper 150 to 200 m of water overlying the slope and deep basins. The fish from this zone represent a mix of permanent residents and periodic visitors. The important pelagic species of southern and central California include northern anchovy, albacore tuna, jack mackerel, Pacific mackerel, Pacific bonito, Pacific sardines, Pacific whiting, Pacific herring, salmon, steelhead trout, swordfish, and thresher shark. Most of these species are widely distributed in the SCB, and it is unlikely that an oil spill will harm enough individuals, their prey, or habitat to significantly decrease the population of a given species. However, northern anchovy are of concern since their restricted distribution during parts of their life cycle make them vulnerable to impacts from spilled oil. Another species that is abundant in the epipelagic zone and is vulnerable to impact is the market squid. Although during most of their life cycle squid are widely distributed offshore, squid congregate inshore in very large numbers during spawning. Monterey Bay and the northern Channel Islands are the most important spawning areas, but large spawning aggregations are known to occur along the entire coast from San Diego to Monterey.

Both rocky and sandy shallow habitats are at risk from spilled oil when it comes ashore. Abalone are an especially at-risk gastropod species of the shallow rocky habitat. Currently, all major species of abalone in

central and southern California are severely depleted. Their depleted condition and life histories make abalone in shallow habitats especially vulnerable (at the population level) to impacts from spilled oil.

As oil comes on shore, the rocky intertidal habitat, as well as coastal wetlands and mud flats adjacent to river mouths are at significant risk both from the beached oil and from most of the cleanup procedures used to remove the oil. Of special concern in the coastal marsh/wetland areas is the potential for oiling many species of resident or visiting birds, mammals, young-of-the-year endangered Coho salmon, and steelhead trout.

## B.5 San Diego



The San Diego dispersant use pre-approval area includes all waters seaward of the 3-mile state waters line (shown in red), and shoreward of the 200-mile line (shown in green). Areas inside state waters or within 3 miles of the California-Mexico border are "RRT Approval Required"; RRT approval will be case-specific.

Oil spills within the offshore region initially threaten all seabirds and marine mammals that frequent the area. If the spilled oil is driven on shore by the sea conditions and prevailing winds, additional resources (*e.g.*, shorebirds, intertidal organisms, seal and sea lion pups) and their shoreline haulout, roosting, and nesting habitats are also at risk for oiling.

Seabirds off California are generally most abundant in nearshore waters over the continental shelf; abundance drops off dramatically over the continental slope and deep offshore waters. Sea birds seasonally tend to concentrate near upwelling zones, in and "down stream" of offshore current jets associated with headlands, along temperature and salinity gradients, and along the shelf break. Both seabirds and marine mammals concentrate in these regions due to the high abundance of food.

Seabird densities are typically highest during the late summer through fall and winter periods (July through January) and lowest in April to June when birds are concentrated on their colonies. In general, seabird densities decrease when moving from the inshore to the offshore environment, dropping off considerably seaward of the continental shelf break.

Although over 100 species of seabirds have been reported from the region, the majority of individuals are composed of about 30 species. In the offshore (water depth > 200m) waters, common seabird species occurring seasonally include sooty shearwaters, phalaropes, Leach's storm petrel, northern fulmar, blacklegged kittiwake, gulls (herring, Bonaparte's, western and California), auklets (Cassin's and rhinoceros) and common murres. Nearshore (water depth <200m), common species include sooty shearwaters, phalaropes, common murres, loons, western grebes and western, California and Bonaparte's gulls. In addition, endangered species including the brown pelicans, marbled murrelets (northern area of region), western snowy plovers, and least terns occur seasonally in the nearshore area and would be at risk from oil entering this area.

Shorebirds are another important component of the avifauna of the San Diego area. More than 40 shorebird species have been recorded in central and southern California; however, many of these are extremely rare, and only about 24 species occur regularly in the area. Almost all shorebirds migrate to the project area from northern breeding sites; very few shorebirds breed in this area. Although the majority of shorebirds occupy coastal wetlands, including estuaries, lagoons, and salt and freshwater marshes, they also occupy other coastal habitats, including sandy beaches and rocky shores.

A number of marine mammal species are potentially at risk from spilled oil in this region of the coast. At least 34 species of marine mammals inhabit or visit California waters. These include six species of pinnipeds (seals and sea lions) and 27 species of cetaceans (whales, porpoises, and dolphins). Cetaceans, including a number of endangered species, use area waters as year-round habitat and calving grounds, important seasonal foraging grounds, or annual migration pathways.

The threatened or endangered marine mammal species found in southern California waters include six whales (blue, humpback, fin, sei, right, and sperm whales) and two pinnipeds (Guadalupe fur seal and Steller sea lion). The two threatened pinniped species do not breed in the area and presently are uncommon in southern California waters.

Marine mammals vary in their susceptibility to the effects of oiling. Since oil can destroy the insulating qualities of hair or fur, resulting in hypothermia, marine mammals that depend on hair or fur for insulation are most likely to suffer mortality from exposure. Most vulnerable to the direct effects of oiling among the pinnipeds are fur seals and newborn pups, which lack a thick insulating layer of fat. Cetaceans, which rely on layers of body fat and vascular control rather than pelage to retain body heat, are considered to be less vulnerable to the effects of oiling than pinnipeds.

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equatorial, and North Pacific central water masses, and the fish fauna contains representatives from each of these sources. Of the 554 species of California marine fishes, 481 species occur in the SCB.

The pelagic realm is the largest habitat in the SCB and the home of 40 percent of the species and 50 percent of the families of fish. The pelagic zone includes the water column covering the shelf and the upper 150 to 200 m of water overlying the slope and deep basins. The fish from this zone represent a mix of permanent residents and periodic visitors. The important pelagic fish species of southern and central California include northern anchovy, albacore tuna, jack mackerel, Pacific mackerel, Pacific bonito, Pacific sardines, Pacific whiting, Pacific herring, salmon, steelhead trout, swordfish, and thresher shark. Most of these species are widely distributed in the SCB, and it is unlikely that an oil spill will harm enough individuals, their prey, or habitat to significantly decrease the population size of any given species. However, northern anchovy are of concern since their restricted distributions during parts of their life cycle make them vulnerable to impacts from spilled oil. Another species that is abundant in the epipelagic zone and is vulnerable to impacts is the market squid. Although during most of their life cycle squid are widely distributed offshore, squid congregate inshore in very large numbers during spawning. Monterey Bay and the northern Channel Islands are the most important spawning areas, but large spawning aggregations are known to occur along the entire coast from San Diego to Monterey.

Both rocky and sandy shallow habitats are at risk from spilled oil when it comes ashore. Abalone are an especially at-risk gastropod species of the shallow rocky habitat. Currently, all major species of abalone in central and southern California are severely depleted. Their depleted condition and life histories make abalone in shallow habitats especially vulnerable (at the population level) to impacts from spilled oil.

As oil comes on shore, the rocky intertidal habitat, as well as coastal wetlands and mud flats adjacent to river mouths are at significant risk both from the beached oil and from most of the cleanup procedures used to remove the oil. Of special concern in the coastal marsh/wetland areas is the potential for oiling many species of resident or visiting birds, mammals, young-of-the-year endangered Coho salmon, and steelhead trout.